



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/951,201	10/14/1997	WILLIAM M. WOODARD	33470US	1323
26158	7590	05/05/2004	EXAMINER	
WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC P.O. BOX 7037 ATLANTA, GA 30357-0037			DOROSHENK, ALEXA A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1764	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	08/951,201	WOODARD ET AL.
	Examiner Alexa A. Doroshenk <i>ADP</i>	Art Unit 1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 and 22-33 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 22-33 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 19, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-6 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

A subject matter not described in the application as filed is that directed toward "a homogeneous catalyst system". Applicant has added this subject matter to independent claim 1 by amendment. The examiner notes that applicant has not indicated where the amended subject matter can be found in the specification. The only occurrence that the examiner could find of the word "homogeneous" in the specification was on page 15,

lines 16-17, which states: "a preferred solvent for a homogeneous catalyzed trimerization process is cyclohexane". The examiner does not find this to be sufficient support for the amended claims as such a statement does not define or indicate how a "homogenous catalyst system" would impart any structural distinctions to the device.

Another subject matter not described in the application as filed is that directed toward "wherein the reactor does not employ a fluidized bed". Applicant has added this subject matter to independent claim 22 by amendment. The examiner notes that applicant has not indicated where the amended subject matter can be found in the specification and the examiner has found no discussion of fluidized beds in the specification. Additionally, the examiner has found a teaching by Goode et al. (5,137,994) which indicates that polymerization fluidized bed reactors are gas phase reactors (col. 4, lines 27-30). Therefor, it is held that absent a specific teaching by applicant's original disclosure that fluidized bed reactors are not used, applicant's teaching of a gas phase reactor would include the use of fluidized bed reactors rather than exclude them.

Claims Analysis

4. It is noted that the claims recite "a system" which is not a statutory category of invention. The examiner has interpreted the claims to be directed toward an apparatus and the appropriate principles for interpreting claims of the apparatus category of invention have been applied.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 2, 4, 28, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Avidan et al. (4,778,661).

With respect to claims 1 and 28, Avidan et al. discloses an apparatus comprising:

a reactor (2) of solution, slurry or gas phase (col. 6, lines 23-30);

a first inlet line (23) for olefin reactant (inherently connected to a source of that olefin);

a second inlet line (14) for catalyst operably connected to a source of catalyst (13);

wherein said first and second inlet lines are separate from one another (see figure 1) and located in the reactor to provide contact within the reactor of the materials they carry (col. 6, line 59- col. 7, line 3);

an effluent line (46) from the reactor for transferring olefin, catalyst and reaction products (col. 7, lines 23-26); and

a separator (50) connected to the effluent line (46) after discharge from the reactor to separate desire products such as catalyst and reaction products (col. 7, lines 29-32).

With respect to the limitation in claim one of a "homogeneous catalyst system", which has been rejected over 35 USC 112, first paragraph above, it is held by the examiner that this terminology indicates the nature of the catalyst in the apparatus. The material or article worked upon does not limit apparatus claims. MPEP 2115.

With respect to claims 2 and 29, Avidan et al. discloses wherein a filter can be operably connected into the effluent line (col. 8, lines 62-65).

With respect to claims 4 and 31, it would be inherent in the apparatus to have a line with which a source of olefin is connected to the olefin inlet line (23) in order to satisfy the requirement of providing olefin.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
8. Claims 22, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avidan et al. (4,778,661) in view of Kissin et al. (6,153,551).

With respect to claim 22, Avidan et al. discloses an apparatus comprising:
a reactor (2) of solution, slurry or gas phase (col. 6, lines 23-30);
a first inlet line (23) for olefin reactant (inherently connected to a source of that olefin);
a second inlet line (14) for catalyst operably connected to a source of catalyst (13);

wherein said first and second inlet lines are separate from one another (see figure 1) and located in the reactor to provide contact within the reactor of the materials they carry (col. 6, line 59- col. 7, line 3);

an effluent line (46) from the reactor for transferring olefin, catalyst and reaction products (col. 7, lines 23-26); and

a separator (50) connected to the effluent line (46) after discharge from the reactor to separate desire products such as catalyst and reaction products (col. 7, lines 29-32).

Though the examiner has rejected the limitation that the reactor does not employ a fluidized bed under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, it is found that Kissin et al. teaches wherein a gas-phase fluidized bed reactor or a slurry reactor can be used for polymerization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a slurry reactor in place of the fluidized bed reactor of Avidan et al. since it is merely the selection of functionally equivalent reactors for polymerization.

With respect to claim 23, Avidan et al. discloses wherein a filter can be operably connected into the effluent line (col. 8, lines 62-65).

With respect to claim 25, it would be inherent in the apparatus to have a line with which a source of olefin is connected to the olefin inlet line (23) in order to satisfy the requirement of providing olefin.

9. Claims 3, 24 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avidan et al. (4,778,661) in view of Lashier et al. (5,689,028).

The apparatus of Avidan et al. discloses all of the structural elements as described above, but does not disclose an inlet for catalyst system deactivator.

Lashier et al. discloses a process to regulate olefin production in which a catalyst comprising a chromium source, a pyrrole-containing compound and a metal alkyl (col. 1, lines 55-59) is deactivated in the reactor effluent stream (col. 5, line 65- col. 6, line 21). Lashier et al. disclose that the reaction products can be prepared from a conventional gas phase catalyst system (col. 4, line 65- col. 5, line 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an inlet for catalyst deactivator into the effluent stream of Avidan et al. gas phase catalyst system in order to regulate the production of olefin during trimerization once it has left the reactor.

10. Claims 5, 26, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avidan et al. (4,778,661) in view of Harandi et al. (4,788,366).

Avidan et al. is silent as to an inlet line connected to a source of heavies.

Harandi et al. discloses a similar trimerization system with olefin feed, catalyst feed, effluent line (22), effluent separation and a feedstock or recycle inlet (21) operably connected to the effluent line wherein the source of feedstock for the process could contain heavies (col. 3, lines 41-52). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a heavies inlet in the apparatus of Avidan et al. as providing such an inlet further promotes the production of Avidan et al.'s desired products as taught by Harandi et al. (which also produced products such as Avidan et al.).

11. Claims 6, 27 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avidan et al. (4,778,661) in view of Mehra et al. (5,521,264).

Avidan et al. is silent as to an inlet line connected to a source of trimerization reaction solvent.

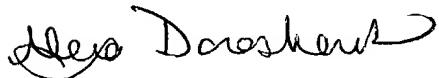
Mehra et al. discloses an apparatus similar to that of Avidan et al. including a separator, a reactor, filters, and a solvent inlet line (col. 13, lines 61-65 and reference number 98). Mehra et al. teaches the use of a solvent to absorb ethylene, higher alpha olefin comonomers, and heavier hydrocarbons (col. 13, lines 61-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a solvent inlet in optimal operable connection in the apparatus of Avidan et al. to incorporate the teaching of Mehra et al. and further to remove heavies during operation.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexa A. Doroshenk whose telephone number is 571-272-1446. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Calderola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alexa Doroshenk
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1764

May 1, 2004